Improvement of tourism in NE States

1617. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government for coordination with the concerned Ministries like Civil Aviation, Railways and Home Affairs etc. the State Government as also the private sector to improve and make tourism more attractive in the North Eastern States;

(b) what are the major short-comings noticed in the improvement of tourism in North-Eastern States, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to overcome short-comings?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) The steps taken by Government for coordination with the concerned Ministries, State Government as also the private sector to improve and make tourism more attractive in North Eastern States are indicated in Statement - I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The major shortcomings noticed in the improvement of tourism in North Eastern States and the steps taken by Government to overcome shortcomings are indicated in Statement - II.

Statement - I

Steps taken by Government for coordination with the concerned Ministries, State Governments as also the private sector for development and promotion of tourism in NE States

1. Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India has taken up the issue relating to Protected Area Permit (PAP)/Restricted Area Permit (RAP) with Ministry of Home Affairs, also with the Ministry of Civil Aviation for better connectivity to NE destinations.
2. Regular Review Meetings are held by Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India with the representatives of the State Govt. to monitor the progress in implementation of the projects.
3. Two Familiarization Tours to North Eastern States were organized by Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India in association with

renowned Tour Operators, Travel agents and media personalities during 2004-05.

4. A meeting of the Union Minister for Tourism and Culture with the Ministers of Tourism and Culture of the North East States was organized on 3.7.2006 at Guwahati to sort out the constraints in development and promotion of tourism in the North East States. A meeting of the Union Minister for Tourism & Culture with the Tour Operators, Travel Agents and Hoteliers of North Eastern States was also held in Guwahati on 4.7.2006 for interaction on promotion and development of tourism in North Eastern States.

5. Minister, Tourism & Culture separately had meeting with the Home Minister and Minister, Civil Aviation where among other issues relating to NE also were discussed.

Statement - II

Major shortcomings in improvement of tourism in North Eastern States and steps taken by Government of India to overcome the shortcomings

1. **Delay in release of funds by State Government to the implementing agencies.** In such cases, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India release grants-in-aid directly to implementing agencies.

2. **Lack of tourism infrastructure in the States.** Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance to State Government/Union Territory Administration for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with the State Government/Union Territory. In order to attract private investment, Government of India has launched a public private partnership scheme.

3. **Existence of Restricted Area Permit (RAP)/ Protected Area Permit (PAP) and Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime in the North East States.** Ministry of Tourism, Government of India constantly take up these issues with Ministry of Home Affairs.

4. **Lack of publicity/marketing by the States.** Ministry of Tourism, Government of India had launched a major integrated campaign costing Rs. 9 Crore for promotion of North Eastern Region.

5. **Delay in execution of projects by State Government/ implementing agencies.** To avoid delay on this account, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India holds regular Review Meetings with the representatives of State Government/Union Territory Administration.

Development of tourism in Orissa

1618. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals for the development of tourism have been received from the State Government of Orissa;

(b) the number of tourism projects of Orissa which have got the Central Government clearance and how many are waiting for clearance;

(c) whether the tourism department has identified any new area for development of tourism in Orissa; and

(d) how much funds have been allotted for the development of tourism for Orissa during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism-related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Following projects have been prioritized for the year 2006-07:

Destination

1. Chilka